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Prepaid electric meters for Aruba....an ELMAR pilot project!

Technology is advancing and ELMAR N.V., Aruba's electric distribution company, is intent on keeping up with the technology. In an effort to provide better and more efficient service to clients, ELMAR is introducing a very innovative and efficient project...prepaid electric meters!

Prepaid electricity is something that is already functioning in different countries in the world and has been well received. The system is a meter, much like the existing meters, the top up system used today. ELMAR is now introducing these pre-



paid meters to Aruba. They intend to begin a pilot project in two districts on the island, namely, San Nicolaas and Noord. They will allow a period of six months to evaluate its functionality. They are advising those who want to be first to test the prepaid system to call their offices and register for the system to be installed in their homes. The contact persons are: Soraya Croes at tel. 523-7124 and Alders at tel. 523-7169.

It is also possible to go by the main office in Oranjestad, or at Hato or San Nicolaas and register in person. The prepaid meter and installation is totally gratis, and there is no deposit required.

The prepaid meter functions in the same way as the postpaid traditional meter and utilizes both 110 and 220 volts. The prepaid meter will be installed on the outside of

the house and a small box will be installed inside near an electrical outlet.

ELMAR will provide detailed instruction as to how the system works and the client will also receive an explanatory manual.

The benefits of the system are many, according to ELMAR. Each user can control his electric use and his expenses. The user can reduce their consumption, pay on time and eliminate monthly collections. Hence, they will no longer have to complain about the high cost of electricity. The system uses a card. Cards can be purchased for a value of Fls.100 or whatever other amount desired depending on what you calculate you will be using for a given period. ELMAR will ensure that you get the value of your card.

Continue on pg 2

Romney seals party nod, clouded by Obama birth row



Mitt Romney

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Mitt Romney has clinched his Republican party's White House nomination by winning its Texas primary, vowing to get America "back on the path to prosperity" by defeating Barack Obama in November.

But Tuesday's milestone was clouded by a revived controversy over claims by billionaire tycoon Donald Trump, a high-profile Romney supporter, questioning where Obama was born, and therefore his right to be president.

"I am honored that Americans across the country have given their support to my candidacy and I am humbled to have won enough delegates to become the Republican Party's 2012 presidential nom-

inee," Romney said.

"I have no illusions about the difficulties of the task before us. But whatever challenges lie ahead, we will settle for nothing less than getting America back on the path to full employment and prosperity."

Romney, the only candidate who actively campaigned in Texas, won 69 percent of the vote, against 12 percent for Ron Paul, 8 percent for Rick Santorum and 5 percent for Newt Gingrich, according to CNN, with 99 percent of votes counted.

Texas, the second most populous US state, had 155 delegates up for grabs which - added to former Massachusetts governor's tally of 1,064 -- takes him well over the nomination threshold of 1,144

delegates.

But while Romney celebrated confirmation that he will take on Obama in November 6 polls, the campaign risked veering off message due to interventions by flamboyant real estate tycoon Trump, who endorsed the candidate in February.

Trump -- with whom Romney attended a fundraiser in Las Vegas as the Texas results came in late Tuesday, spent much of the day insisting there were still lingering doubts about whether Obama was really a natural born US citizen.

US President Barack Obama called Mitt Romney to take him on in November's election and called for a healthy debate on America's future.

"President Obama said that he looked forward to an important and healthy debate about America's future, and wished Governor Romney and his family well throughout the upcoming campaign."

A Romney campaign official said that the call was "brief and cordial."

"Governor Romney thanked the President for his congratulations and wished him and his family well," the official said.

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We're proud...Gold and Silver for Aruba from our own Athletes



Last weekend the Suriname Open in Taekwondo was held in the city of Paramaribo, Suriname organized by Arthy

Lie. Seven countries and 270 participants were in attendance at the Open in Taekwondo.

The Golden team of Brazil Taekwondo Foundation participated with 9 athletes. Arubans, Aischal van der Linde and Jendrique Gumbs were the only two athletes to win medals for Aruba. The level of the Open organized by Master Arthy Like revealed that the Taekwondo sport is quickly moving forward in the Caribbean. Curacao, our sister island, who at one time dominated the martial arts, has made a remarkable come back. This time Curacao participated with 6 athletes and took home 5 gold medals and 1 silver. Curacao's Cedric Meulens is intent on putting Curacao back to where they once were with this particular sport.

Aruba's top athlete, Aischal van der Linde won her first fight from Trinidad & Tobago with a score of 7-1. Then, she went on to win Sandra Chikhoer of Suriname 3-1 in the final.

Jendrique Gumbs had his hands full. In his first fight, Jendrique met his Suriname contestant who towered over him, but Jendrique didn't allow that to hinder him. He was able to dominate his opponent.

Jendrique Gumbs met with a fighter from French Guyana in the final, a high caliber contender. Jendrique was delighted to have won a silver medal.

And, Aruba is extremely proud of both Aischal and Jendrique....great job guys...keep it up! The Morning News applauds both of our top athletes...congratulations!

Chavez defies health fears with marathon TV appearance

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has defied speculation about his health with a four-hour long televised appearance, his longest since being diagnosed with recurring cancer in March.

The government has disclosed few details about Chavez's health, leading to intense speculation over the political future of Latin America's most prominent leftist leader, who is seeking reelection to a third consecutive six-year term.

But on Tuesday the 57-year-old sought to reassure supporters by chairing a four-

hour televised cabinet meeting just weeks after returning from close ally Cuba, where he has undergone several rounds of chemotherapy and radiation.

On Tuesday, Chavez confirmed that Venezuelan forces were operating in "all areas" where Bogota has said Colombian leftist guerrillas may be operating, but did not provide further details.

The flamboyant Venezuelan leader has yet to disclose what kind of cancer he suffers from, but has vowed to route opposition candidate Henrique Capriles in the October 7 election.

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Team Aruba feels at home in St. Louis



ST. LOUIS, Missouri: Many are glad to see the ADRL return to Gateway Motorsports Park after a year's absence from the tour. The newly reopened track serves as the home stop for the ADRL, whose offices are based in the area. However, St. Louis also acts as an unlikely 'home' for the XPS team from Aruba. Driver Trevor Eman explains:

"St. Louis is a very special place for our team. My father went to school here 35 years ago and lived with a family that took him in as their own son. So, in a way, the races that take place at Gateway are like being at home for my father."

Mr. Eman's familiarity with the area gives him a special fondness for the track. "As a matter of fact," Trevor

continued, "he remembers back in the day when the track was actually run in the opposite direction. My father has seen the track through many years. Being here for their grand re-opening will be especially meaningful for us. It's a wonderful facility with rich history. We're excited to see the track come back to life, and, needless to say, we are very happy to be racing back at Gateway."

"We were disappointed there wasn't an event here last year because we love to come to this area early and spend a few extra days with my father's friends, the Boushard family. Dad has many friends here that he grew up with, so when we come racing here he takes advantage of the opportunity to

spend time with them."

With the support of special friends and family, Team Aruba will be as close to home as you can get while over 2,000 miles away.

"Maybe we'll enjoy a 'home court' advantage," Eman joked. "With all our friends cheering us on and Gateway having their grand reopening, there is going to be a lot of excitement surrounding this weekend. And that might be just what we need to push us to the winner's circle."

Prepaid electric meters for Aruba...an ELMAR pilot project!

Continued from pg 1

The minimum that can be purchased are cards of Fls.15,00. ELMAR will notify the customer when he is approaching the limit of the card purchased so that the customer can recharge his card.

It is expected that this prepaid system will alleviate many homes of the monthly expenses. Each client will be able to control his own usage. ELMAR believes that many clients will welcome this sys-

tem and will want to be among the first to try it out. Once the system has been tested, it is the intention of ELMAR to introduce this island wide.

The Morning News has not heard any mention made of the brutal Brandstof Clause in this prepaid system. Does this mean that the Brandstof Clause will be eliminated with the introduction of the prepaid system?

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THE BEST OF ITALY IN ARUBA

Aruba signs historic MOU with Professor Wubbo Ockels



The first voyage of the ship "Ecolution" sails for the very first time from one continent to another, crossing the Atlantic Ocean for the first time. And, this historic voyage is destined for Aruba! This was announced last week by Professor Wubbo Ockels in the presence of the Aruba Prime Minister and the Minister of Finances, Communication and Utilities during a duly called press conference.

The Ministers and the former astronaut and Dutch scientist signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) making the ship voyage a reality this year. Ockels, who flew in the space ship Challenger, is the creator of the "Ecolution yacht. He made a commitment with the government of Aruba to have

"Ecolution" make the maiden voyage from Holland to Aruba. What's more, the professor has indicated that he will remain on the island for three months to offer his assistance with the creation of the "Happy Green Aruba" program.

The motor of the "Ecolution" yacht runs on neither gasoline nor diesel fuel, it is powered completely by green energy...the future energy. Professor Ockels remarked that he is in love with Aruba. He said "...this island is simply fantastic, with much more advantages than Holland; with people open to create other types of energy sources..."

The Aruba Prime Minister shares the vision of Professor Ockels that we must take steps here on Aruba and in



Holland to create a better world for the next generation - steps to guarantee sustainability in our communities.

The Prime Minister was quick to note, in his address, that we are fortunate and proud to have the support and expertise of Dr. Wubbo Ockels. Ockels not only has the experience and knowledge of sustainable development, but that he also personifies this, according to the Prime Minister.

Professor Ockels has proven this with the creation of his own fantastic project, the construction of a yacht based solely on sustainable

principles. His yacht has an electric motor which depends on batteries that are charged as the yacht navigates. "Ecolution" has never before travelled any long distance. But, the Minister announced with pride that her inaugural long distance voyage will be from Holland to Aruba. This voyage is estimated to take three weeks and will arrive on Aruba around Christmas time.

Ockels will then remain on the island for three months to help promote all the sustainable projects, both in education, inventions and investigation, etc. The gov-

ernment has also been contemplating the creation of a certified course for university students working on special projects.

The MOU they signed here last Tuesday is an extremely important step in the cooperation that ought to exist within the Dutch Kingdom, according to Prime Minister Eman. This will enable our country to advance in the field of sustainability. Eman also indicated that, this agreement is a symbolic signal of the relationship with the Dutch Kingdom into which we have invested much in recent years.

Don't miss the Carubbian Festival tonight!



SAN NICOLAS -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Carubbian Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surrounded by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner.

Island visitors can enjoy the Carubbian festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

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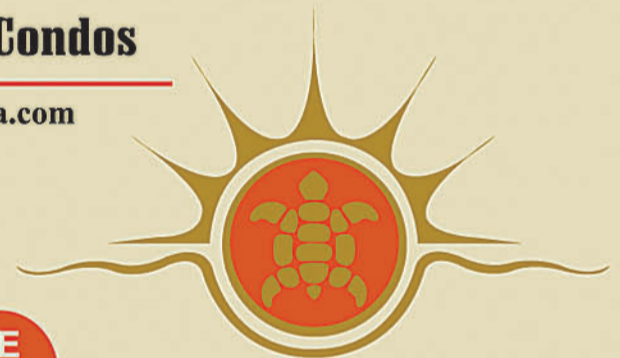


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Gold Coast
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International School of Aruba conducting musical/theater summer camp June 9-20

International School of Aruba, ISA, is conducting a two week summer musical/theater experience titled Aruba's Stars on Stage that will introduce campers to all elements of a stage production. Daily sessions will focus on all areas of performance including singing, dancing, and acting.

The camp will be directed by Donna Moss

Ogle, the Faculty Advisor of the Mitchell College Drama Society at Mitchell College in New London, Connecticut and founder of the Marlboro Musical Theater Summer Camp in Marlboro, New Jersey. She will be joined by Choreographer, Heather-Renaé Powers, Acting Coach, Kevin Paul and Dance Assistant Marina Fong.



The two weeks will culminate in a performance that will showcase each individual student and his or her talents. Parents, family, and friends will be welcome to attend.

Donna and her staff are looking forward to providing this exciting opportunity to interact the

children of Aruba.

Camp hours are 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. for two weeks; cost is 800 AWG.

It is for all island students completing OR entering grades 4-6 not only those attending the International School.

Registration forms are available at the ISA Office or email: info@isaruba.com.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Dutch probe leads to global child sex arrests



Robert Mikelsons

THE HAGUE (AFP) - A Dutch police probe culminating in the sentencing of a former creche worker for paedophilia, has led to the arrest of 33 suspects worldwide, a prosecutor's office spokesman said Wednesday.

Police swooped on suspects in the United States, the

Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Poland, Sweden and Britain and other countries after investigating the case of a 28-year-old Dutch citizen only identified as "Robert M.", said Dutch prosecutor's office spokesman Wim de Bruin.

M., a Dutch citizen of Latvian origin, was sent to 18 years in jail on May 18 for sexually assaulting 67 young children while working at creches in Amsterdam, as well as for making and distributing child pornography.

"There were 33 arrests world-wide, including eight in the United States and 13 in the Netherlands," De Bruin told AFP.

The arrest came after police analysed M.'s computers, hard drives, USB drives and mobile phones following his arrest on December 7, 2010.

Police identified some 1,100

of M.'s Internet contacts and sent the results to 52 countries.

Some of the suspects were arrested for the possession and distribution of child pornography while others were arrested for the sexual abuse of children.

"Numerous investigations in the Netherlands and abroad are still continuing," De Bruin said.

Arrested in December 2010, M. was employed in nurseries in Amsterdam which looked after children aged from a few months to four years between 2007 and 2010. From 2009 he also acted as a baby-sitter for parents he contacted via the Internet.

M. admitted to the offences. His 39-year-old Dutch spouse was sentenced to six years in jail for the possession of child pornography and for "facilitating" M.'s crimes.

Syria expels Dutch charge d'affaires

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria ordered the Dutch charge d'affaires on Wednesday to leave the country, the foreign ministry said, in an apparent reaction to the expulsion of Syrian diplomats by a slew of Western countries.

"Syria is expelling the charge d'affaires of the Netherlands and gives her 72 hours to leave the country," a statement said.

Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal said the decision was "not surprising," adding in a statement given to AFP by his spokesman that the diplomat, Janet Alberda, had already left the country.

On Tuesday, numerous Western nations, including the United States, Britain and France, expelled Syrian diplomats in the wake of a massacre of civilians in Syria over the weekend.

For its part, the Netherlands declared Syria's ambassador "persona non-grata" to protest the massacre of at least 108 people in Houla.

The decision means Syrian Ambassador Mohammad Ayman Jamil Soussan, who lives in Brussels and whose mission represents Damascus both in Belgium and the Netherlands, will not be received by the Dutch foreign minister or its foreign affairs department.

The Netherlands recalled its ambassador on February 7 and closed its Damascus embassy on March 20 to express the "revulsion we feel in the face of the appalling violence of the Syrian government," Rosenthal said at the time.

However Alberda remained as one of the few Western diplomats still in post in Damascus.

White House shrugs off Polish apology demands

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House on Wednesday shrugged off Polish demands to express more than mere 'regret' after President Barack Obama mistakenly referred to a Nazi Holocaust site as a "Polish death camp."

"We regret the misstatement, but that is what it was," said Obama spokesman Jay Carney, reiterating that the president "misspoke" during a ceremony awarding the highest US civilian honor to late Holocaust hero Jan Karski.

"He was referring to Nazi death camps in German-occupied Poland."

Poland had earlier insisted that Washington must do more than simply express the "regret" offered by another White House spokesman late on Tuesday, hours after Obama's use of

words deemed offensive by Warsaw.

Obama's verbal slip overshadowed his posthumous award of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Karski, a Polish underground officer who provided the Allies with early eyewitness accounts of Nazi genocide against European Jews.

Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Obama's words had hurt all Poles and he expected more from Washington than just regret.

Members of Poland's Jewish community -- including the country's Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich -- said in a statement that: "We expect President Barack Obama to personally correct his words."

Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski said mean-

while he had sent a letter to Obama "counting on (...) cooperation in correcting this unfortunate error" which "I am certain in no way reflects the thoughts or views of our American friend."

US officials reiterated Wednesday that Obama had visited the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial during his visit to Poland last year and had repeatedly paid tribute to the bravery of Poles during World War II.

Between 1939 and 1945, nearly six million Polish citizens perished under Nazi Germany's brutal World War II occupation of their country.

More than half of Poland's victims were of Jewish origin and they, in turn, accounted for half of the six million European Jews who perished during the Holocaust.



LEIDSCHENDAM, The Netherlands, (AFP) - A UN-backed war crimes court sentenced Liberia's former president Charles Taylor to 50 years' jail Wednesday for arming Sierra Leone rebels in return for "blood diamonds". Taylor, 64, listened with his eyes closed and a drawn face as the judge handed down the sentence, which Taylor can appeal. The former president was convicted on April 26 on all 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for aiding and abetting Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) during the country's 1991-2001 civil war. In return, the court said, Taylor was paid in diamonds mined by slave labour in areas under control of rebels who murdered, raped and kept sex slaves while hacking off limbs and forcing children under 15 to fight. Human rights groups such as Amnesty International and Global Witness welcomed the sentence as justice for the victims of that war. But in Liberia's capital of Monrovia, the sentencing attracted mixed reactions. Some Liberians argued he didn't get fair treatment.

International News

West presses for Syria sanctions, Russia rejects

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Western nations on Wednesday demanded increased pressure on Syria amid heightened outrage over two massacres in five days, but Russia maintained its opposition to sanctions.

The United States, France, Britain and Germany all came out of a UN Security Council meeting on the worsening crisis urging measures up to sanctions by the 15-nation body.

All governments are increasingly concerned as the Syria death toll piles up and UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan left Damascus this week with no apparent concessions from President Bashar al-Assad. The growing divisions are over the answer.

US ambassador Susan Rice said the slaughter of 108 people in Houla on Friday was a sign that "we may be beginning to see the wheels coming off of this bus."

UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous gave the council details of the 13 bodies found late Tuesday near Deir Ezzor in eastern Syria -- nearly all killed execution-style.

Rice told reporters that prospects for a political solution were now almost non-existent, and that the Security Council must now discuss new action against Syria.

"That pressure could include sanctions of the sort that have been alluded to and discussed, and we were among those that raised that possibility," she said.

Germany's UN ambassador Peter Wittig said he had proposed sanctions against the "spoilers" who are undermining Annan's six-point

peace plan.

"We called for a strengthening of sanctions on the Damascus regime," said France's deputy ambassador Martin Briens. "That is what we are going to discuss in coming days."

Russia has already blocked two UN Security Council resolutions in the past year which had only hinted at sanctions, and reaffirmed Wednesday that it would not accept a new resolution.

"Our attitude to sanctions continues to be negative," said Russia's UN ambassador Vitaly Churkin.

Churkin said he had told the Security Council that sanctions already applied by the European Union and United States "are having a very severe effect on the Syrian population."

Annan is to come to New York to brief the Security

Vatican newspaper launches women's section

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - The Vatican's official newspaper is for the first time in its more than 150-year history printing a special supplement for women, the publication said Wednesday.

The four-page colour supplement, which will appear in Italian every last Thursday of the month in the L'Osservatore Romano, aims to promote better understanding of the "under-appreciated treasure" of women in the Church, the paper's director Giovanni Maria Vian told reporters.

The supplement was thought up by historian Lucetta Scaraffia, who is an editorial writer on the paper,

Council on June 7. But talks on sanctions and any other action will take much longer and are now set to be taken up between governments and at international summits.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin is to visit Berlin and Paris on Thursday and Friday. Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and France's President Francois Hollande are both expected to raise sanctions.

Syria is also set to become a key topic at the Group of 20 summit in Mexico in June and other international meetings.

"We need to explore with the Russians, but also other members of the council, what further steps, now, the council needs to take to increase the pressure on all parties, but particularly the Syrian government," said Britain's UN ambassador Mark Lyall Grant.

and another woman, Giulia Galeotti.

Pope Benedict XVI supports the project, Vian said, recalling the pontiff's 2009 statement that the "Church and society in general urgently need" female input.

"This supplement provides information on the female condition, without ignoring hot topics like procreation, access to culture and women's rights," Scaraffia said.

The Church counts among its members 740,000 nuns and 460,000 monks and priests.

L'Osservatore Romano was founded in 1861. It is a daily newspaper.

Frenchman released by leftist rebels in Colombia



SAN ISIDRO (AFP) - Marxist rebels Wednesday freed a French journalist kidnapped more than a month ago, handing him over to a Red Cross team in a remote jungle village.

"Apart from the fact that I was held for a month, everything went very well. I cannot complain," France 24 reporter Romeo Langlois told reporters after arriving in a village in Caqueta department with a group of rebels.

A smiling Langlois was greeted Wednesday by a crowd as he arrived in the small village of San Isidro in the Colombian jungle, before being handed over to a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

He was wearing a gray shirt and black pants, and had arrived in the village of about 300 people driven in a car and accompanied by several rebels.

The rebels handed over Langlois to an ICRC delega-

tion also including French envoy Jean-Baptiste Chauvin and longtime peace activist Piedad Cordoba.

"This is a time of great relief as Romeo will be able to continue his work as a journalist and reunite with his family," Chauvin said.

At the request of the rebels, the Colombian army agreed to suspend all military operations in the area for 36 hours.

Eager to welcome Langlois, locals had sacrificed several cows for a celebratory barbecue in the village, which has no running water or electricity.

As armed rebels in olive green fatigues and rubber boots patrolled the streets, banners were put up calling for an end to the decades-long conflict between the FARC and the military.

Founded in 1964, the FARC is the oldest and largest leftist guerrilla group in the country with some 9,200 fighters.

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Health & Living

Indians sold milk mixed with sewage water: police



report.

Police, who seized 181 adulterated milk packets and 160 litres of adulterated milk from the vendors, are now investigating if the men were part of a larger racket.

They said one of the vendors' methods was to rummage through garbage bins and collect empty milk packets, which they would fill with 60 percent milk and 40 percent gutter water, before sealing the packet with a burning candle.

MUMBAI (AFP) - Indian police said Tuesday they had arrested and charged four men in Mumbai who are accused of selling milk mixed with sewage water in plastic packets scavenged from garbage bins.

The four vendors, arrested on Monday, are suspected of adulterating milk for the last six months and are accused of putting their customers' health at risk by selling it in a western suburb of the city.

They appeared before magistrates charged with several counts, including the sale of noxious food or drink, and were remanded in custody until May 31, Mumbai police spokesman Nisar Tamboli told AFP, confirming the Mid Day

The raid comes after a meeting of Indian dairy farmers this month called for strong legislation to curb the malpractice of adulterated milk being sold to consumers.

A study by an Indian government watchdog published in January showed that more than two-thirds of milk in the country was contaminated with substances including salt, detergent, skimmed milk powder, fat, glucose and water.

The survey across 33 states by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India found that 68.4 percent of 1,791 milk samples contained adulterants.

The sale of fake products in branded packaging collected from rubbish dumps is be-

lieved to be widespread in India.

Turkey wants to slash abortion time limit

(AFP) Turkey's Islamist-rooted ruling party is preparing a bill to slash the time limit for abortions, party sources said, after the prime minister triggered outrage for likening abortion to murder.

Abortion has been legal in Turkey since 1983, allowing women to terminate a pregnancy in the first 10 weeks, but under the proposed bill the Justice and Development Party (AKP) wants to drastically reduce the time limit.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan triggered outrage among women's groups and the opposition last week when he likened abortion to murder, saying "You either kill a baby in the mother's womb or you kill it after birth. There's no difference."

He further fanned the flames when he told women's branches of the AKP last weekend that "Every abortion is an Uludere," referring to a botched attack on Kurds by Turkish warplanes in December that claimed the lives of 34 civilians.

Health Minister Recep Akdag has backed the prime minister, saying abortion should not be used as a family planning method, according to Turkish media reports.

The current law requires women to obtain spousal authorisation prior to obtaining an abortion. But the consent requirements are waived if the pregnancy poses an immediate danger to the life of the woman.

Israelis develop 'cannabis without the high'



JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli scientists have cultivated a cannabis plant that doesn't get people stoned in a development that may help those smoking marijuana for medical purposes, a newspaper said on Wednesday.

According to the Maariv daily, the new cannabis looks, smells and even tastes the same, but does not induce any of the feelings normally associated with smoking marijuana that are brought on by the substance THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol.

"It has the same scent, shape and taste as the original plant - it's all the same -- but the numbing sensation that users are accustomed to has disappeared," said Tzahi Klein, head of development at Tikkun Olam, the firm that developed the species.

"Many of our patients who tried the new plant come back to us and say: 'You tricked me,'" because they assumed

they had been given a placebo, he said.

According to Maariv, Tikkun Olam sought to neutralise the effect of the THC and to increase the effect of another substance called CBD, or cannabidiol, which has been shown to help diabetics and to ease various psychiatric disorders.

Not only does it leave users stone-cold sober, it also doesn't induce the munchies, the hunger pangs that the drug's smokers generally suffer.

Despite the innovation, it is unlikely to have any impact on Israeli law, which outlaws the use of marijuana as illegal except for medical purposes.

According to figures published earlier this year by Sheba Medical Centre and the Israel Cancer Association, medical marijuana has been approved for use by about 6,000 Israelis suffering from various illnesses.

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Sci-Tech

BlackBerry maker facing critical test this year



(AFP) - BlackBerry maker Research In Motion, losing ground rapidly in the smartphone wars, needs to take bold steps to revive its fortunes and compete with iPhones and Android devices overwhelming the market, analysts say.

Analysts say RIM, which pioneered the smartphone, risks falling further behind the competition, and that the Canadian firm may slip behind Microsoft, which is making a new effort with Nokia to develop Windows-powered devices.

RIM warned Tuesday it could report a loss in the current quarter and said it had hired investment firms to study its strategic options.

JP Morgan Securities and RBC Capital Markets were retained to advise the company in a "strategic review," which could mean a sale, alliance or other reorganization of the business.

A survey by the research firm IDC showed smartphones powered by Google's Android software accounted for 59 percent of the global market in the first quarter of 2012, with 23 percent for Apple's iPhones.

That left just 6.4 percent for BlackBerry, compared with 13.6 percent a year ago.

Roberta Cozza, an analyst with Gartner, said RIM risks

becoming a "niche" player in the market, especially with some companies adopting a "bring your own" smartphone policy.

Cozza said that the introduction of the new BlackBerry 10 platform later this year, which is aimed at confronting Apple and Android, may do little to help the company.

Even if the new platform is successful, she said the introduction may be overshadowed by the expected launch of a new iPhone, as well as new Android offerings from Samsung and others, and an aggressive move by Microsoft.

BlackBerry has traditionally been strong in the government sector, and it got a boost in early May from a big order from the US Defense Department, which cited its strong security features.

But the US Transportation Security Administration has unveiled plans to buy 1,000 iPhones, and Apple and Android devices are slowly gaining ground in the congressional market that had been dominated by RIM.

A National Journal survey showed 77 percent of Capitol Hill staffers said they have BlackBerrys in January, down from 93 percent in 2009, while 41 percent had iPhones.

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Assange loses UK extradition appeal



LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange can be extradited to Sweden, but put his deportation on hold to give his lawyers a final chance to reopen the case.

The court, which handed down its decision after an 18-month legal marathon, rejected Assange's argument that the Swedish prosecutor who issued the arrest warrant over sex crime allegations was not entitled to do so.

The seven judges were split

five to two but their majority ruling was that the prosecutor was a rightful judicial authority, and therefore allowed to issue the warrant for the Internet whistleblower.

But in a new twist, Assange's lawyer Dinah Rose asked for 14 days to consider whether to apply to reopen the case, on the grounds that the judgment referred to material that was not mentioned during the last hearing in February.

The judge granted the request, which is highly unusual in the three-year history of the Supreme Court.

Assange, a 40-year-old Australian national, was not in the central London court for the judgement. One of his supporters, journalist John Pilger, said he was "stuck in traffic" with his mother, who flew in from Australia for the verdict.

The Swedish lawyer for the two women who accuse Assange of rape and sexual as-

sault said he would be extradited eventually.

Assange is at present wanted for questioning over the sex crime allegations, but Borgstroem said he expected an indictment perhaps within a month after he gets to Sweden.

Australia said it would closely monitor the case and added that consular officials were available to help him if he wished.

Assange, whose website enraged Washington by releasing a flood of state and military secrets, has been living under tight restrictions on his movement for 540 days, including wearing an ankle tag and reporting daily to police.

He has said he fears his extradition would eventually lead to his transfer to the United States, where US soldier Bradley Manning is facing a court-martial over accusations that he handed documents to WikiLeaks.

COMICS

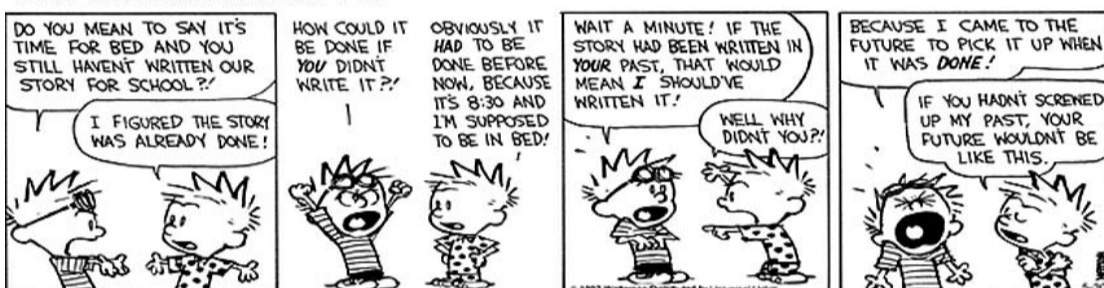
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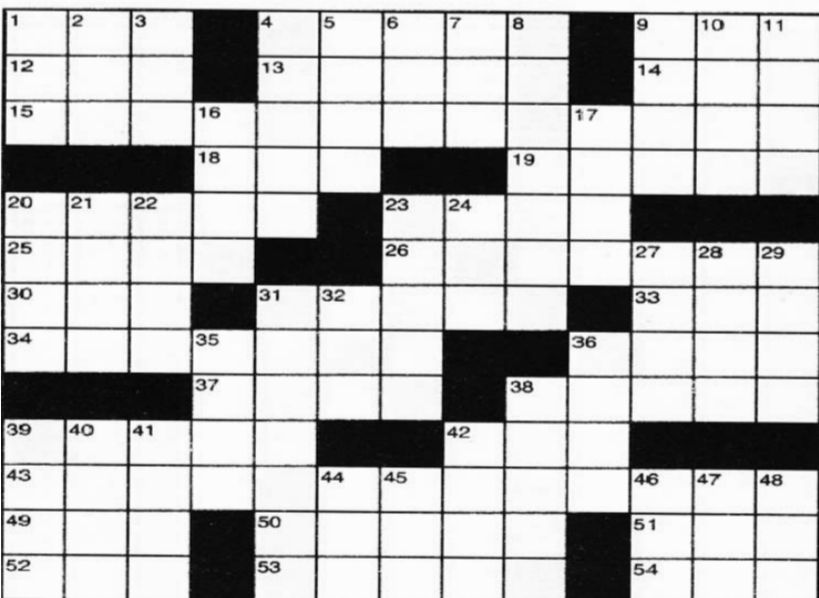
- 1. "Memoirs ___ Geisha" (2 wds.)
- 4. Ogling
- 9. Off the deep ___
- 12. Reaction to an IM joke
- 13. White cliffs of ___
- 14. "The Raven" poet
- 15. Civil Rights movement's quest
- 18. Tibetan ox
- 19. Van Dyke and Clark
- 20. Gamble
- 23. Twirled
- 25. "___ fair..."

- 26. Eloquent speakers
- 30. R followers
- 31. Hannah of "Splash"
- 33. Highest minor-league level
- 34. Steal a car, in a way
- 36. Military force
- 37. Egyptian deity
- 38. Threads
- 39. Pugilists' weapons
- 42. Badly lit
- 43. During (4 wds.)
- 49. TV brand

DOWN

- 1. ___ Testa-ment
- 2. Rival
- 3. Pacino and Roker
- 4. ___ Rice Burroughs
- 5. New ___
- 6. Common

- 7. Not pos.
- 8. Proceeding by steps
- 9. Grand in scale
- 10. Secluded spot
- 11. Animal lairs
- 16. Potato peepers
- 17. Hue
- 20. Do laundry
- 21. Female singer
- 22. Overload
- 23. Tender spots
- 24. Use a crowbar
- 27. Boat blades
- 28. Highway entrance or exit
- 29. Simon ___
- 31. Disagree
- 32. Onassis, informally
- 35. Alongside
- 36. Intentions
- 38. Cablegrams
- 39. Balsams
- 40. Crawl
- 41. Remain
- 42. Conduit
- 44. U.S. spy org.
- 45. Above, poetically
- 46. Paris summer
- 47. Acorn tree
- 48. Attorney's retainer



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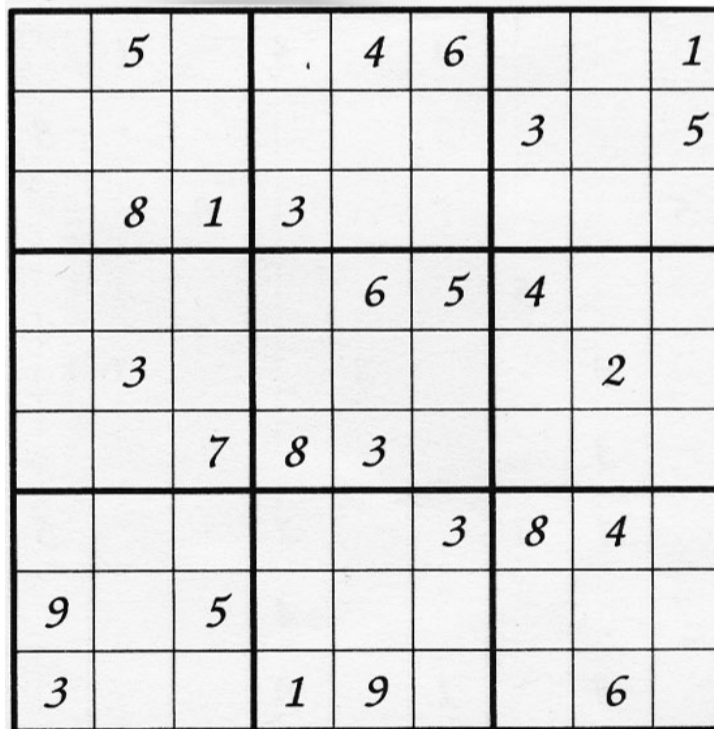
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	9	5	4	6	1	8	7	3
7	8	1	3	2	9	5	4	6
6	4	8	1	3	2	9	5	7
9	5	6	7	8	1	4	2	3
8	2	7	6	1	4	9	5	3
5	1	4	9	7	6	2	8	3
4	6	9	2	5	1	8	7	3
5	7	8	1	2	4	6	9	3
1	8	2	9	4	6	3	5	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9




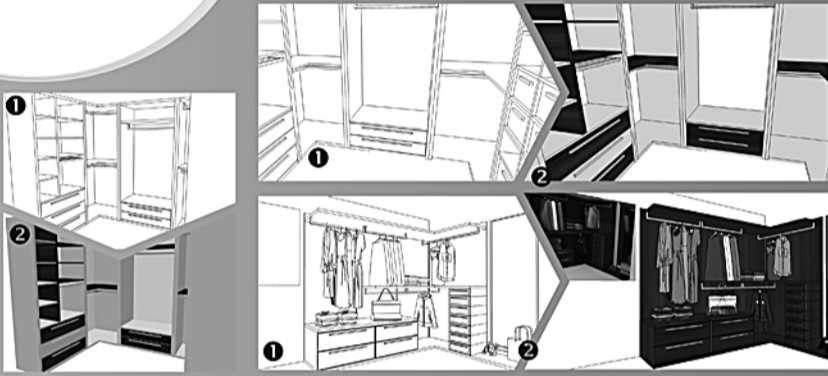
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Use of Debit Cards affected by news reports on Skimming Fraud

THE NETHERLANDS-- The copying of debit cards, along with the capturing of its PIN codes by fraudsters, is reported to be on the rise in the Netherlands. From EUR 4 million worth of damage in 2005 to EUR 39 million in 2011.

Recent research on debit card fraud in the Netherlands conducted by Mrs. Anneke Kosse of the Dutch Central Bank reveals evidence that consumers changed their behavior in response to the frequent newspaper headlines addressing the emerging problem. The researcher further noted that when this form of fraud first started, cards were mostly copied at ATM's, but from mid-2007 skimming spread to ticket and point-of-sale (POS) ter-



Anneke Kosse

minals.

Commenting on the results of her research, Mrs. Kosse notes that "Payment fraud can have serious repercussions on consumers' confidence and behavior, and consequently on the social cost of payments, causing the efficiency of retail payments to deteriorate.

This underlines the importance of close cooperation between banks, retailers, the police and the judicial authorities, and all other parties involved to keep fraud and safety risks in payments to a minimum."

Mrs. Kosse will be sharing the experience of the Netherlands in combating fraudulent activities, as a speaker at the Mind Your Eye conference in Aruba on June 23rd, where a panel of international experts will be addressing the topic of currency counterfeit and credit card fraud

from different perspectives.

In the Netherlands, since the 1st of January 2012, all debit card payments are authenticated by an embedded EMV chip instead of a magnetic stripe, providing better protection against fraud. During the conference, Mrs. Kosse will further expand on the recent experience of the Netherlands with this piece of innovation, and the need for close international cooperation to minimize skimming losses.

The studies of Mrs. Kosse further underline the importance of effective safety measures, which minimize the risks inherent in the payment system, and of clear communication towards consumers, so that they may continue to pay efficiently and safely in all circumstances.

For more information on the work of Mrs. Kosse visit: <http://www.dnb.nl/en/onderzoek-2/onderzoekers/overzicht-persoonlijke-paginas/dnb250958.jsp>

For more information on the Mind Your Eye conference, where Mrs. Kosse among other experts will share valuable insights relating to counterfeit currency and credit card fraud, visit: www.mindyoureye-aruba.com

Finance

Commission says Dutch face serious challenges on deficits

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands faced a number of serious challenges in its attempts to steer the eurozone's fifth-largest economy below a European Union deficit target, the European Commission said Wednesday.

Presenting its report card to 27 European countries, the EU's executive arm said "the Netherlands continue to face a number of serious challenges in the short to medium term" in bringing its deficit in

line.

Under pressure from Brussels to get its public deficit back to the EU limit of 3.0 percent of gross domestic product, five Dutch political parties hammered together a cut-backs package late last month, days after the Dutch government handed in its resignation.

The Netherlands aims to save 12.4 billion euros (\$15.3 billion) in 2013 under the April 26 agreement, concluded four days after the Dutch ruling coalition threw in the towel over a collapse in austerity talks with its far-right parliamentary partner.

In its recommendation, the Commission on Wednesday said the Netherlands' most pressing challenges were in areas of fiscal consolidation, the long-term sustainability of public finances, especially pensions, the labour market, education and housing.

But it added: "Constrained by a highly complex political context, the Netherlands has only adopted a limited number of far-reaching policy initiatives."

It said "rigorously pursuing the budgetary strategy for 2012 and specifying the measures necessary to ensure the implementation of the 2013 budget with a view to timely correcting the excessive deficit, will be of paramount importance."

Reacting to the Commission report card Dutch Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager said it has given the Dutch budget plan the green light, adding he believed it was "completely satisfactory" to the Commission.

Oil falls sharply tracing weakening euro

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices sank Wednesday to multi-month lows on worries about a possible Spanish bailout, with sentiment also hit as the dollar soared to a near two-year peak against the European single currency.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for delivery in July, dropped \$2.94 to \$87.72 a barrel.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for July slumped to \$103.47 per barrel, plunging \$3.21 for the day.

The prices continued to map the fall in Europe's economic prospects and the decline in the euro, which dropped 0.9 percent to a 23-month low of \$1.2370.

A stronger greenback makes dollar-priced crude more expensive for buyers using other currencies, like the euro.



Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
05/30/2012				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.710	1.730	1.760
Britain	GBP	2.710	2.760	2.830
Switzerland	CHF	1.8426	1.8498	1.8697
Netherlands	EUR	2.2195	2.2153	2.2528
Sweden	SEK	0.2374	0.2446	0.2534
Denmark	DKK	0.2884	0.2956	0.3057
Norway	NOK	0.2851	0.2923	0.3021
Japan	JPY	223.14	225.17	226.10

(per 10,000)

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

YOGI	DEC	ARE
EARN	ROOM	BAM
ARIS	INNOCENT	
SPOKE	TOP	
	LES	ADRIFT
ELLEN	MIS	VIA
PIE	HAN	ANN
IRA	HEX	RENDS
CANTER	KEG	
	ODD	ALOSS
REINDEER	IHOP	
BBS	ARTE	SEAS
IBM	SAN	TART

Funeral of Bee Gees star Robin Gibb set for June 8



Robin Gibb, left, with his brothers Barry, centre, and Maurice, in 1979.

LONDON (AFP) - The funeral of Bee Gees singer Robin Gibb will take place on June 8, the late star's spokesman said Wednesday.

Gibb, singer with one of the biggest-selling groups of all time and a key figure in the breakthrough of disco, died on May 20 aged 62, having lost his battle against cancer.

Gibb had been in remission earlier this year but was hospitalised in April and then fell into a coma after contracting pneumonia. Though he woke up again on April 20, he had advanced colorectal cancer and finally succumbed to his illness.

The funeral will take place in Britain and will be a "private service for close family and friends", spokesman Doug Wright said.

Donations could be made to the Rebecca House and Wish

Upon A Dream children's charities on the Isle of Man, "both of which were close to the heart of Robin Gibb and his family," he said.

"A memorial service will take place later this year. Full details will be announced in due course," the brief statement said.

The Bee Gees -- brothers Barry, Maurice and Robin Gibb -- were born on the Isle of Man, a British crown dependency in the Irish Sea.

Their finely-crafted songwriting and immaculate harmonies helped them notch up record sales of more than 200 million.

The trio helped turn disco into a global phenomenon in the 1970s with hits such as "How Deep Is Your Love", "Stayin' Alive", and "Night Fever".



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Fan-in-chief Barack Obama invested legendary singer songwriter Bob Dylan Tuesday with America's highest civilian honor, praising the gritty folk legend's never ending quest for truth. Dylan joined other honorees including former secretary of state Madeleine Albright, John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth and novelist Toni Morrison to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. "By the time he was 23, Bob's voice, with its weight, its unique gravelly power, was redefining not just what music sounded like, but the message it carried and how it made people feel," Obama said. "Today, everybody from Bruce Springsteen to U2 owes Bob a debt of gratitude. "There is not a bigger giant in the history of American music. " Dylan, hiding behind trademark dark glasses, gave no noticeable sign of appreciation or emotion as he was summoned to receive the medal from Obama.



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BEST PRICES ON THE ISLAND

US police to quiz Justin Bieber over photographer clash



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US detectives plan to question Justin Bieber after a press photographer claimed the teen idol hurt him during a scuffle over the weekend, a sheriff's department spokesman said.

The alleged incident occurred on Sunday at a shopping center near Bieber's home in Calabasas, northwest of Los Angeles, as the lensman tried to take pictures of the singer and his actress girlfriend Selena Gomez.

"Singer Justin Bieber and actress Selena Gomez were at The Commons at Calabasas shopping center," said spokesman Robert Wiard of the Malibu/Lost Hills sheriff's station.

"As the victim attempted to take a picture of Mr. Bieber, Mr. Bieber and the victim were involved in a

physical altercation," he added.

The 30-year-old photographer, whose identity has not been revealed, called 911 and requested sheriff's deputies and paramedics.

He complained of pain in his upper torso and was taken to a hospital where he was

treated and released, Wiard said.

Bieber left the scene before deputies arrived, the spokesman added, saying that detectives planned to interview other witnesses and the Canadian singing sensation about the incident.

The TMZ celebrity news website said Bieber could not immediately be interviewed because he was in Norway.

Coincidentally, Bieber was pictured "training" with former boxing champion Mike Tyson days before the alleged incident, the Huffington Post reported, quoting Tyson as tweeting alongside an online video: "JB's got the moves!"



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Michelle Obama makes literary debut with gardening book



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US First Lady Michelle Obama made her literary debut Tuesday with a book about the White House garden in her latest effort to promote healthy eating in a nation struggling with obesity.

"American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Gardens and Gardens Across America" features the smiling mother of two holding a bulging basket of fresh produce on its cover and includes a slew of healthy recipe, anecdotes and even some childhood memories.

"It is definitely a passion," Obama said in an interview with broadcaster ABC. "The book is a way to talk about our journey, about the challenges we face as a nation around health and what we can do to move forward."

The book's release comes as President Barack Obama campaigns for reelection in November and as his popular wife is seen by some analysts as a political asset.

Located on the South Lawn, the White House kitchen garden has become a symbol for the 48-year-old's "Let's Move" campaign that encourages children to exercise and eat well to stay slim.

Obesity is a major health problem in the United States, where one in three adults and almost one in five children is overweight.

"This isn't about inches and pounds and how our kids look," Obama writes in the book. "It's about how they feel and how they feel about themselves; and it's about the impact we're seeing on every aspect of their lives."

To spread the word among youngsters about the benefits of exercise and good nutrition, the Harvard-trained lawyer has not hesitated to do jumping jacks or dance with a hula hoop as cameras rolled.

Spanning 100 square meters (1,100 sq. feet), the First Lady started the White House kitchen garden in the spring of 2009 just weeks after her husband took office and moved her and their two daughters into the White House.

Since then, she has regularly invited schoolchildren to help her tend to the sprawling but carefully labeled plot that Washington visitors can spot by peeking through the railings of the White House grounds.

As for the harvested goodies, they are donated to charities that feed the homeless and have even made it onto the menu of banquets honoring foreign dignitaries.

In the 272-page work, rich with colorful photographs, Obama also talks about her childhood in Chicago and divulges that "we grew beautiful, perfectly round cantaloupes that had absolutely no taste." It also pays tribute to projects around the country.

Tips for travelling during the holidays AAA N.V. with some important travelling advice for passengers travelling during the hoidays ahead



This year again Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) foresees a busy holiday season where many passengers will be using the many facilities of the airport during the holiday season.

The following advices will contribute to making the departure process as efficient as possible, without forgetting any security aspects.

Tips for travelling during the holiday season:

Prepare ahead of time

When planning your trip

- Nobody can travel without a valid pasport. Ensure that your pasport and the pasport of everyone travelling with you are valid.

- There are new pasport requirements for minors, please contact Censo on this matter.

- Persons with a stay-over permit have to check if their permit is valid and if the have the re-entry permit

- If you are travelling with minors, they will need their parents' permission to do so. For more information about pasport and required permits visit www.gobierno.aw.

Travelling Day

Preparing to come to the airport

- Don't allow anybody else to pack your luggage, you are responsible for it.

- Don't luse a lock for your luggage. Preferrably use tie-wrap, this will make the luggage more easily accessable for checking.

Be at the airport on time

All passengers have to be 3 hours prior their flight at the airport to have sufficient

laptop out of its case for it to be revised

- Don't forget about the liquids, gel and aerosole restrictions

- Each passenger is allowed to travel with only one transparent plastic bag (zip lock) containing bottles of maximum 3 ounces of liquid, gel and aerosole. The bag has to be ¼ size.

- These restrictions are only for handluggage. Liquids are allowed in carry-ons.

At the airport

- Don't travel with inadmissible items

Remember to revise your belongings and make sure to gather everything that went through screening

- Notify the Security Department at the airport of any unusual activities you may observe.

For more information on flights and to view the list of inadmissible items please visit our website: www.airportaruba.com

Those travelling to the US must have their "ESTA" filled and approved when booking their tickets. To apply for the ESTA please visit: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/

AAA is well prepared for the busy season ahead, but every passenger can contribute to making the travelling process more efficient and pleasant possible by applying the abovementioned recommendations.

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Published Monday thru Saturday



EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE

June 8 - July 1



Euro buzz builds in Poland and Ukraine



a sports shop showcase in Kiev - Ukraine with souvenirs for the Euro 2012 soccer championship.



WARSAW (AFP) - As the clock ticks down to Euro 2012, the buzz is building in host nations Poland and Ukraine, though a section of the population of both countries seems immune to football frenzy.

Opinion is split between those relishing the party mood that surrounds sporting showcases like the European championship, and those far from enthused.

The 16-nation tournament kicks off in Warsaw on June 8 and ends with the final in the Ukrainian capital Kiev on July 1.

"It's going to be crazy and loud," said student Monika Kowalska, 19, sitting in the

sun at the foot of Warsaw's city centre Palace of Culture.

The lofty, Stalinist-kitsch "gift" from the Soviets, now a landmark, will be the hub of a fanzone for 100,000 people, the largest in Poland or Ukraine.

"The atmosphere's going to be great the whole time, even if Poland get knocked out early," said Kowalska's boyfriend Rafal Szmit, also 19.

Over the nearby River Vistula lies Warsaw's brand-new National Stadium, venue for the first match of Euro 2012, Poland against Euro 2004 champions Greece.

To stoke the atmosphere, Warsaw's refurbished railway station has been decked out with flag-painted faces of fans of the Euro 2012 teams, while a salon nearby is offering to dye hair and paint nails in their colours.

Slowly but surely, the folk-inspired Euro 2012 logo and spiky-haired mascots Slavek and Slavko are invading shop windows and shelves, on anything from chocolate to sports-wear.

Slavek in Poland's white and red and Slavko in Ukraine's yellow and blue line the lampposts of Warsaw's main Nowy Swiat street.

In 2007, Ukraine and neighbouring Poland were surprise

winners of the race to host the quadrennial championship, beating favorites Italy.

It marks the first time European football's governing body UEFA has opted to hold the top tournament behind the former Iron Curtain, meaning it is a crucial showcase of the hosts.

The infrastructure challenges have been massive, with the Polish and Ukrainian state funding the bulk, albeit mostly for much-needed transport projects.

The host cities have been vast building sites, leading to grumbling from some residents, who also feel football is taking over.

"It's going to be great for restaurateurs and hotels, but for ordinary people, much of a muchness," said retired engineer Darek Sikora, 73, in a Warsaw park.

"It's going to be an inconvenience," he added. "Getting around won't be easy."

Surveys in both countries show the public is far from gung-ho.

A study in Poland showed that 44 percent were happy to host Euro 2012, six percent were unhappy and 49 percent were indifferent.

A similar poll in Ukraine found 50 percent support, while 32 percent were critical.

But journalist Oleksandr Peremot, 23, in Donetsk in eastern Ukraine, was upbeat.

"It's a great event, which will have a positive impact on Ukraine's relations with European countries," he said.

"It's a great opportunity for ordinary Ukrainians to communicate with foreign supporters who will come to Ukraine, as not many ordinary inhabitants of Donetsk can afford to travel abroad," he added.

The open question is whether enthusiasm will wither if Poland and Ukraine fare badly on the pitch.

"Doing well would have a boost for the atmosphere during the tournament," Mikolaj Piotrowski, spokesman for the tournament organisers, told AFP.

That was echoed by top UEFA official Martin Kallen, who recalled Euro 2004 host Portugal's sterling performance in reaching the final.

"I'm really hoping very much that the two teams have a good start to the event, that'll give real fire," he said.

Rising star Reus set to roll at Euro



BERLIN (AFP) - Having been dubbed one of the Bundesliga's players of the season by German coach Joachim Loew, Marco Reus could find himself in a striking role at Euro 2012.

Reus turns 23 today when Germany host Israel in a Euro warm-up match in Leipzig and Loew is considering playing the attacking midfielder as an out-and-out striker in the tournament.

Loew will go into Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine with Bayern Munich's Mario Gomez and Lazio's Miroslav Klose as his first-choice strikers.

Klose will turn 34 the day Germany open their Group B campaign against Portugal on June 9 and with his record of 63 goals in 114 appearances, he is Loew's first choice when fully fit.

But Reus -- who scored in a second-string German side's 5-3 warm-up defeat by Switzerland on Saturday -- has forced his way into Loew's thinking as an option up front on the back of a stellar season with Borussia Moenchengladbach.

He scored 18 goals in 32 league games as Gladbach were in the title race until the final few weeks. They eventually finished fourth, earning them a tilt at a Champions League group stage spot via qualifying early next season.

After three seasons at Borussia Moenchengladbach, Reus is now on his way to join German league and cup winners Borussia Dortmund next season, the club where he began his career as a seven-year-old.

With a superb range of passes and great pace, Reus has spent the season playing just behind Gladbach striker Mike Hanke and often finds himself in a forward position for his club either on the right wing or in the middle.

"If he wants to test it, I'm open to anything we may like to try," Reus told the German sports news agency SID, in reply to Loew's suggestion.


There is certainly plenty of competition for places in Germany's attack.

With Loew playing three attacking midfielders behind a single striker, Leverkusen's Andre Schurrle is putting Arsenal's new signing Lukas Podolski under pressure to keep his place on the left side.

Real Madrid's Mesut Ozil and Dortmund's teenage rising star Mario Goetze are vying for the central berth, while the right wing has been dominated by Thomas Mueller. Now Reus is in the fray.

Loew is set to drop four players for his final Euro 2012 squad to be named on May 29 but the coach has already hinted neither Goetze nor Reus, with just 16 caps between them, need lose sleep over their places.





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Tennis: Federer beats Connors mark, Djokovic cruises



PARIS (AFP) - Roger Federer set a new record of 234 Grand Slam match wins Wednesday to reach the French Open last 32 where he was joined by top seed Novak Djokovic whose date with tennis destiny edged a little closer.

Federer, the third seed, overcame a mid-match wobble to beat Romania's Adrian Ungur 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, and go past Jimmy Connors' long-standing record of 233 wins at the majors which he'd equalled in the first round.

The 16-time Grand Slam title winner will face Nicolas

Mahut of France for a place in the last 16.

On a subdued day at Roland Garros, Federer's post-match news conference was spent discussing Queen Elizabeth II's diamond jubilee.

"I had lunch next to the queen, that was exciting," said Federer, recalling the monarch's visit to Wimbledon in 2010 after a 33-year absence.

"She was very sweet, very nice, very polite, of course, and a pleasure to be around."

The 27-year-old Ungur, the world number 92, knocked out Argentine veteran David Nalbandian in the first round on his Grand Slam debut, having failed to qualify for any major on 13 previous occasions.

He was swept aside on the first two sets on Wednesday, but once he had saved two match points in the third set tiebreaker, he came alive to take the second round clash to a fourth set.

But normal service was soon resumed with Federer, playing in his 50th straight Grand Slam event, taking the match when the colourfully tattooed Ungur slapped a backhand return wide.

Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open champion Djokovic edged closer to history with a 6-0, 6-4, 6-4 win over Slovenia's Blaz Kavcic.

The world number one, bidding to become only the third man after Don Budge and Rod Laver to hold all four Grand Slam titles at the same time, put down a gutsy challenge from world number 99 Kavcic.

Djokovic fired 41 winners past the Slovenian, taking victory on a fourth match point, to set up a clash with French qualifier Nicolas Devilder, the world number 286.

"I gave him the opportunity to come back after I had had a perfect first seven games," said Djokovic.

"But I expected him to fight. He had nothing to lose and he showed his fighting qualities."

Argentine ninth seed Juan Martin Del Potro, the only man outside of Djokovic, Federer and Rafael Nadal to have won a major in the last seven years, clinched a 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 6-4 win over France's Edouard Roger-Vasselin.

Del Potro, battling a knee injury, and who had to call the trainer onto the court for the second match in a row, faces Croatian 21st seed Marin Cilic.

"The knee always worries me but I try not to think about it on the court. I get treatment and then do all I can just to get ready for my next match," said the 2009 US Open winner and a semi-finalist in Paris in 2009.

Cilic put out 2003 French Open winner and former world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-3.

Czech seventh seed Tomas Berdych, a semi-finalist in 2010, eased into the third round with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 win over France's Michael Llodra.

He next faces South Africa's 31st seed Kevin Anderson who put out Argentine qualifier Horacio Zeballos 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-0.

American wildcard Brian Baker, who was playing in a Grand Slam event for the first time since 2005 after undergoing five surgeries and working as a college coach, saw his run come to an end.

Gilles Simon, the 11th seeded Frenchman, put out the world number 141 6-4, 6-1, 6-7 (4/7), 1-6, 6-0.

Simon, who has to get beyond the fourth round in Paris, will tackle Swiss 18th seed Stanislas Wawrinka, who beat Spain's Pablo Andujar 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-1, for a place in the last 16.

Heavy rain brought an early finish to the day with three singles still to be completed.

Meanwhile in ladies category Venus Williams has been ousted while Azarenka, who took over the No. 1 ranking after winning the Australian Open, advanced against Pfitzenmaier reaching the third round.

MLB Standings

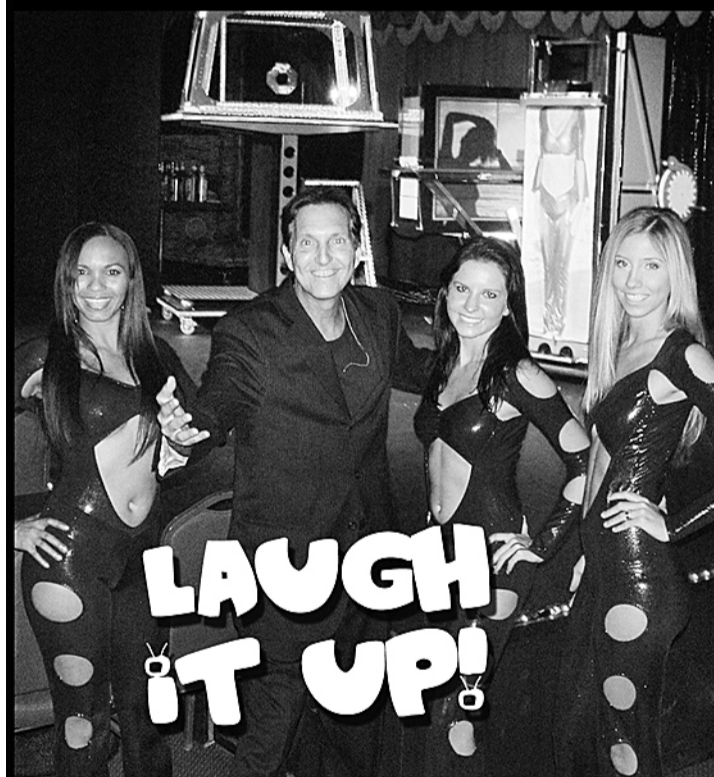
American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	29	21	.580	--	WASHINGTON	29	20	.592	--
TAMPA	29	22	.569	--	NY METS	28	22	.560	1.5
YANKEES	26	23	.531	2.5	MIAMI	28	22	.560	2.5
TORONTO	26	24	.520	3.0	ATLANTA	27	24	.529	3.0
BOSTON	25	24	.510	3.5	PHILADELPHIA	26	25	.510	4.0
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CHICAGO	29	22	.569	--	CINCINNATI	28	21	.571	--
CLEVELAND	27	23	.540	1.5	ST. LOUIS	27	23	.540	1.5
DETROIT	23	26	.469	5.0	PITTSBURG	24	25	.490	4.0
KANSAS	21	28	.429	7.0	HOUSTON	22	27	.449	6.0
MINNESOTA	18	32	.360	10.5	MILWAUKEE	21	28	.429	7.0
West	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	31	19	.620	--	CHICAGO	17	32	.347	11.0
LA ANGELES	26	25	.510	5.5	LA DODGERS	32	17	.653	--
OAKLAND	22	29	.431	9.5	SAN FRANCISCO	27	23	.540	5.5
SEATTLE	22	30	.423	10.0	ARIZONA	22	28	.440	10.5
					COLORADO	19	29	.396	12.5
					SAN DIEGO	17	34	.333	16.0

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NBA: Spurs win 20th in a row to take 2-0 lead on Thunder



Russell Westbrook #0 of the Oklahoma City Thunder goes up to dunk the ball against Gary Neal #14 and Tiago Splitter #22 of the San Antonio Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - Tony Parker scored 34 points and the San Antonio Spurs stretched their win streak to 20 games on Tuesday, defeating Oklahoma City 120-111 to seize command of their NBA playoff series.

The Spurs took a 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven Western Conference final and moved halfway toward booking a place against the Eastern Conference winner, either the Miami Heat or Boston Celtics, in next month's NBA Finals.

Oklahoma City will host games three and four against the Spurs on Thursday and Saturday. In NBA history, teams that fall behind 2-0 in a best-of-seven series have recovered to advance less than six percent of the time.

The Spurs, who last lost

48 days ago on April 11 at home to the Los Angeles Lakers, won their final 10 regular-season games and have won their first 10 play-off games.

"It's a good run but we're only worried about getting these next two in a row," Spurs star Tim Duncan said. "That would be 22 wins. That would be great."

San Antonio's streak has broken the NBA record for a combined win streak in play-off and regular-season games, beating the old combined mark of 19 wins in a row by the 2001 Lakers.

French guard Parker hit 16 of 21 shots and contributed eight assists for the Spurs, who have lost only twice in their past 33 games.

"Tony has been great all year," Spurs coach Gregg

Popovich said. "He was excellent. He played a fantastic game in a lot of ways."

Argentine playmaker Manu Ginobili scored 20 points and Kawhi Leonard added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who also had 11 points and 12 rebounds from Duncan as they challenge for a fifth NBA crown in 14 seasons.

Kevin Durant scored 31 points to lead the Thunder while James Harden added 30 and Russell Westbrook contributed 27 in a losing cause.

"If we play hard and play well, we are able to beat this team," Thunder veteran Derek Fisher said. "We have to continue to be physical on the defensive end. We're doing a great job at times but it can't just be 'at times'.

"We've put ourselves in this position where we have to go home and win game three and get back in this series."

The Thunder trimmed a 22-point Spurs lead to only 99-93 with 5min 25sec remaining before the Spurs found their shooting touch to finish off the victory, but not before Popovich screamed at Parker to regain his focus.

"We were playing sloppy and OKC came back on us," Parker said. "He wanted to make sure I stay in place so we didn't let them come back.

"They messed up our rhythm a little bit. We came out flat in the fourth quarter but we came back at the end

to win it. They are a very tough team. They won't quit. We can't stop playing."

Only three other teams in NBA history have won 20 or more in a row, all of those runs coming exclusively in regular-season games.

The Lakers set the NBA record with a 33-game win streak in 1971-72 while the Houston Rockets ran off 22 in a row in 2008 and the Milwaukee Bucks won 20 in a row in 1971.

The Spurs, who never trailed, hit 54 percent of their shots from the field to only 21 percent by the Thunder.

"They were making shots. They were spraying them from all over the floor," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "Ginobili made a lot of tough shots. Parker was on fire."

The Spurs, leading 55-44 at half-time, made their first five shots of the second half for a 68-52 advantage and ran the margin as large as 80-58 before the Thunder went on an 8-0 spurt, serving notice the visitors had not given up.

"We just can't get down by that many points," Harden said. "We were a little more aggressive. We just have to

play hard every possession. We just have to change things up and come back more desperate in game three."

San Antonio held off Oklahoma City, taking a 92-76 edge into the fourth quarter, but the Thunder opened the last period with a 13-5 run sparked by pressuring defense that caused the Spurs to miss 12 of 15 shots in a key span.

"We got down 22 points. That's not good," Brooks said. "But we still came back and fought."

Oklahoma City pulled within six with 5:25 remaining but San Antonio scored eight of the next 11 points, Parker capping the run with a jumper for a 107-96 Spurs lead with 3:39 remaining.

Fisher sank a three-pointer and Durant slammed down a fast-break dunk to pull Oklahoma City within 112-105.

But Ginobili hit a three-pointer and Parker answered a Westbrook driving layup with one of his own for a 117-107 Spurs lead with only 33 seconds remaining.

"We were able to hold on and make enough plays down the stretch and it was a good win," Duncan said.

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